

304 AGAIN DISCOVERED TO BE AN ENGLISHMAN;  
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and again, over and besides the weakness and the ill furnishing of the rest, they were all so deeply laden, that they had not been able, if they had been charged, to have held out any long fight.

Well, thus we set sail, and had a very ill passage home, the weather was so contrary. We kept our course in a manner north-east, and brought ourselves to the height of 42° N. Lat., to be sure not to meet with Don ANTONIO his fleet : and were upon our voyage from the 4th of June until the 10th of September [1582] ; and never saw land till we fell with the Arenas Gordas hard by San Lucar de Barra-meda.

And there was an order taken that none should go on shore until he had license.

As for me, I was known by one in the ship ; who told the Master that I was an Englishman ; which, as GOD would ! it was my good hap to hear ; for if I had not heard it, it had cost me my life. Notwithstanding, I would not take any knowledge of it, and seemed to be merry and pleasant that we were all come so well in safety,

Presently after, license came, that we should go on shore : and I pressed to be gone with the first.

Howbeit, the Master came unto me, and said, " Sirrah ! you must go with me to Seville by water ! " I knew his meaning well enough ; and that he meant to offer me up as a sacrifice to the Holy House, For the ignorant zeal of a number of these superstitious Spaniards is such, that they think that they have done GOD good service, when they have brought a Lutheran heretic to the fire to be burnt. For so do they account of us.

Well, I perceiving all this, took upon me not to suspect anything, but was still jocund and merry ; howbeit, I knew it stood upon me to shift for myself. So waiting my time, when the Master was asleep in his cabin, I conveyed myself secretly down by the shrouds into the ship's boat, and made no stay, but cutting the rope wherewith she was moored, and so by the cable hauled on shore ; where I leapt on land, and let the boat go whither it would.

Thus, by the help of GOD, I escaped that clay, and then never stayed at San Lucar ; but went all night by the way which I had seen others take towards Seville,